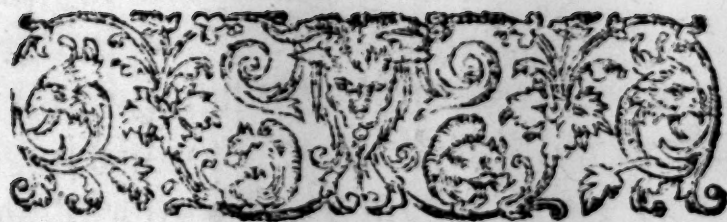




THE PROTESTATION OF THE NOBLEMEN,

BARRONS, GENTLEMEN, BOR-
ROWES, MINISTERS,
AND COMMONS,

Subscribers of the Confession of Faith and Co-
venant, lately renewed within the King-
dome of *Scotland*, made at the Mercate
Crosse of Edinburgh, the 4. of Iulij
immediatly after the reading of
the Proclamation, dated
28. Iune. 1638.



Printed in the yeare of God, 1638.



THE PROTESTATION

of the Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen,
Borrowes, Ministers and Commons. &c.

WEE Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen, Bur-
gesses, Ministers, and Commons, That
whereas Wee the Kings Majesties true and
loyall Subjects, Who have ever esteemed
it Our greatest happinesse, to live under a
religious and righteous King, and Our greatest glory to
testifie our best affections to Our gracious Sovereigne,
Have beene in His Majesties absence from this His na-
tive Kingdome heavily pressed for a long time past, And
especially of late with diverse innovations, which both
in themselves, and in the way wherein they have beene
urged doe manifestly tend to the prejudice of the Kings
honour, and of our religion, lawes and liberties, And by
which wee were brought to such extremitie, that there
was no way left betwixt the rock of excommunication,
and the high paine of rebellion on the one part, and the
desperate danger of forsaking the way of true Religion,
and the breach of our Covenant with God on the other,
But to represent our case, and present our Supplications
to the Lords of Secret Counsell, That beeing equally
pondered by Them, They might either bee answered
by themselves, or by their recommendation might as-
cend to His Majesties owne consideration. And there-
fore in all humble manner Wee did to this effect suppli-
cate their L. We were most willing for the modest fol-
lowing of our supplications, to obey their direction in
choosing

PROTESTATION

choosing Cōmissionars for the great number of supplicants, who flocked together from all quarters of the kingdome, Were carefull to order our selves in all Christian and quyet carriage, and against the tediousnesse of many & long delayes did waite for a long time with verie great patience, till at last They were pleased to receive our Supplications, Complaints and Billes: And conceiving them to contain weightier maters than could by themselves bee determined, They did promise, and undertake to represent and recommend the same, according to their more than ordinarie importance, unto His Majesties royall consideration, and to report His Majesties answere.

While His Majesties good Subjects of all ranks throught the whole kingdome had their minds awakened, and their hearts filled with the expectation of a gracious and satisfactorie answere, worthie of His Majesties pious and equitable disposition; in the Moneth of February last, incontinent a rumour flyeth through the Countrie, & fillethe alleages, That the Lords of His Majesties secret Counsell were commanded to make such a Proclamation concerning the Service booke, booke of canons, and the peaceable meetings of His Majesties good Subjects in time comming, As Wee were perswaded to have been procured by the secret working, and malignant misinformation of our adversaries, Seeking for their own private ends, without respect to his Majesties honour, and welfare of this Kirk and Kingdome, To stop the course of our legall proceedings, and to escape their owne due censure. And therefore intending to make known to the Lords of secret Counsell what was noysed concerning the Proclamation, How far the whole Kingdome had been by some sinistrous misinformation frustrat of their
hopes.

Julij 4. 1638.

hopes, and their constant desire to have some course taken by their Lo. advise, How his Majestie being further informed, might deliver his good Subjects from so great grievances and feares, and establish a sure peace in this countrie for time to come: Wee found our selves tyed by order of Law to decline those against whom Wee had made our complaint, unlesse Wee would admit our parties to be our Iudges: And incase our declinatour should not be accepted, Wee behoved to protest that we might have immediat recourse to the King Himself, &c.

THEREAFTER in the Moneth of March, finding that by the foresaid Proclamation the innovations supplicated against were approven, Our lawfull proceedings condemned, Our most necessary meetings prohibited, There being no other way left unto Vs, Wee were necessitate to renew the nationall Covenant of this Kirk and Kingdome, Thereby to reconcile us to God, provoked to wrath against Us, by the breach of his Covenant within this Land, to cleare Our Sovereignes minde from all jealousies and suspicions arising from our adversaries mis-information of our intentions and carriage: And so to make way for His acceptance of our humble supplications, and grant of their lawfull remedies, to guard this land in defence of Religion, authoritie and liberty, against inward divisions, and externall violences. And that our actions might be answerable to our holy profession, Wee afterward drew up an humble supplication, containing our grievances, and desires of the ordinary remedies thereof, to have beene delivered to the King himself, In the meane time wee were directed by those who were intrusted by His Majestie, to attend His declaration heere in *Scotland*, which would free Vs of all feares of innovations of religion, and prove satisfactorie.

PROTESTATION

rie: And least for want of true information of our just grievances and desires it should fall out otherwise, Wee expressed to them with the greatest modestie Wee could our desires in some few articles, and wth great patience have attended His Majesties pleasure thereanent, And all this Moneth by gone being frequently conveneend to heare the same delivered by his Majesties Commissionar the right Noble and potent Lord *JAMES* Marques of *Hamilton*, &c. We presented a new petition to his Grace as his Majesties Commissionar, craving most humbly the indiction of a free Assembly & Parliament, as the only remedies thereof. Like as finding a mis-information, or mistake of our Covenant with God, as if it had beene an unlawfull combination to be the maine hinderance of obtaining our desires, in a new supplication: Wee have fully removed that impediment, renewed our desires of those supreme judicatories, to bee indicted with diligence, for settling of the Kirk and Kingdome: But being answered only with delayes after these nine Moneths attendance, and with this Proclamation that contained his Majesties gracious declaration of his pious intentions, not to admit of any innovations in Religion or Law, nor any stain of popish superstition: But on the contrare, to be resolved to maintaine the true Christian Religion professed in this Kingdome, which Wee were ever so far from calling in question, as in our supplications, complaints and billes Wee used the same, as one cause of our desires, one ground of our confidence of a gracious answer & argument of our adversaries malignant misinformation of so religious a King. And now most humbly with bended knees, and bowed hearts thanke our gracious Sovereigne for the same, Wishing and praying the Lord of Heaven truely and fully to informe his Majestie
how

Iulij. 4. 1638.

how far these books, judicatories and all our other evils and grievances are full of idolatrous superstitions, and Popish errors, How destructive of the reformation of religion in this Land, and of the Lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome: And so directly contrare to this his Majesties pious intention and declaration.

Yet seeing that no Proclamation could sufficiently remove the present evils, Nor settle our feares, nor secure us from the re-entrie of any evill or Innovation, which it seemed to discharge or prevent the like in time coming, nor satisfie our humble supplications, craving the present indiction of a free Assembly and Parliament, As the only remedies of our evils, and meanes to prevent the like. **AND** seing this Proclamation doeth not so much as make mention, or acknowledge any of Our Supplications, Complaints and grievances, or any just cause therof: Except under the name of great increale of disorders, faults, and mis-demeanours, But only our feares of some future innovation of Religion or Lawes, Occasioned only as is pretended by the introduction of the Service book, booke of Canons, and high Commission, which feares his Majestie hoped to have beene abundantly and sufficiently satisfied by his two former Proclamations of the Nynth of December, and nyneteenth of Februar. And by this his present declaration, Except his Subjects be blindly under pretext of Religion led unto disobedience. *Doth* misken, passe over, and so in effect deny all our supplications, billes, articles, and desires, Especially our complaints against the Prelates our parties. *And that once for all*, in a fair and perswasive way, even after the resait of our last supplication, Clearing us from the calummie of unlawfull combination. **DOETH** not disallow, nor discharge any of the innovations,

PROTESTATION

novations, and evils complained upon, But only assur-
eth that His Majestie will not presse their practise, but
in such a faire and legall way, as shall satisfie his Sub-
jects of his intentiō, Which joyned with the other clause,
allowing and confirming the Proclamation the Nyne-
teenth of Februar, Evidenceth the libertie left to any
Prelate or Persons to practise the same, And by all other
faire wayes, to perswade others thereunto: And his Ma-
jesties resolution, to presse their practise in a faire and le-
gall way: And also confirmeth the former declaration,
That the Service Booke is a ready meane to maintaine
the true Religion, already professed, and to beate out all
superstition, and no wayes to bee contrare to the Lawes
of this Kingdome, But to bee compyled and approved
for the universall use and edification of all his Majesties
Subjects. *Doeth* not abolish, but promiseth to rectifie
the high Commission, with advise of his privie Coun-
sell, Implying the Kings power, With consent of the
Counsell, To establish this or any judicatory within this
Kingdome, without consent of the three estates conven-
ed in Parliament, contrary to the fundamentall and ex-
presse lawes thereof; and by consequent, with the like
reason, to establish lawes and Service bookes, without
consent of the Assembly and Parliament, Which is con-
trare to the maine ground of all our supplications, against
the manner of their introduction. *Doeth* only promise to
take into His consideration in an Assembly and Parlia-
ment, which shall bee called at His best convenience,
While as the evident and urgent necessitie, for settling
the combustions, threatening the totall dissolution and de-
solation of this Church & State, Excuseth our uncessant
and importune calling for these present remedies. *Doeth*
insinuate the continuance and execution of any pretended
lawes,

Julij 4. 1638.

lawes, for these innovations of worship, and corruptions of Church government, and civill places of Church men, Which by our Covenant, Wee have obliged our selves to forbear, and the reestablishment of these evils in an Assembly and Parliament, which he will call in his best convenience, To wit, for that & this other end of satisfieng His Subjects judgments, anent the Service book & book of Canons. *Doth* condemne all our former proceedings, even our supplicating, complaining, protesting, subscribing of our Covenant together, & our continuall meetings, As great disorders, increase of disorders deserving justly a powerfull rather than a perswasive way, a running headlong into ruine, a perishing in our faults, a blind disobedience under pretext of religion, & doth threaten and denounce, *Now once for all*, If we be not heartily satisfied, and give testimony of our obedience after this declaration, But continue, as by our former proceedings, to draw on our own ruine, that albeit unwillingly he must make use of that power which God hath indued him with, for reclaiming of so disobedient people.

Therefore Wee, In our own name, and in name of all who will adhere to the Confession of Faith, and reformation of Religion within this Land, are forced and compelled out of our bound duetie to God, our King, native Countrie, our selves and our posteritie. (lest our silence should be prejudiciall to so important a cause, As concerns Gods glory and worship, our Religion and salvation, the lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome, or derogatorie to our former supplications, complaints, protestations, articles and proceedings, Or unanswerable to the solemne oath of our nationall Covenant with God) To declare before God and man, And to protest, *Primo*, That we doe, and will constantly adhere ac-

B

cording

PROTESTATION

according to our vocation and power to the said reformation. In doctrine, use of Sacraments and discipline; And that notwithstanding of any innovations introduced therein: either of old, or of late. *Secundo*, We protest that we adhere to the grievances, supplications, and protestations given in at Assemblies and Parliaments, and to our last supplications, complaints, protestations, & other lawfull proceedings against the same, & particularly against the Service book, and booke of Canons, As maine innovations of Religion and lawes, & full of Popish superstition, and so directly contrare to the Kings declaration, And against the high Commission, as a judicatorie established contrare to the Lawes & liberties of this Church and kingdome, and destructive of other lawfull judicatories, which both in respect of the nature of it, and manner of introduction, without consent of the three Estates of Parliament, cannot be any wayes rectified, but absolutely discharged: *Tertio*, We protest that We adhere with Our hearts to our oath and subscription of the Confession of Faith, the solemne Covenant betweene God, this Church & kingdome, and the clauses particularly therein expressed, & generally contained, and to our last articles for the peace of this Kirk and kingdome, drawne out of it, and to all the matters therein contained, & manner of remedy therein desired. *Quarto*, Wee protest, that this Proclamation or act of Counsell, or any other act or proclamation or declaration, or ratification thereof, By subscription or act, or letter, or any other manner of way whatsoever, or any precondemnation of our cause or carriage, before the same be lawfully heard and tryed in the supreme judicatories of this Kirk & kingdome, the only proper judges to nationall causes and proceedings, or any certification or threatning therein denounced, shall no wayes be prejudiciall to the confession of Faith, lawes
and

Julij. 4. 1638.

& liberties of this kingdome, nor to our supplications, complaints, protestations, articles, lawfull meetings, proceedings, persutes, mutuall defences, nor to our persons and Estates, and shall no wayes bee disgracefull either in realitie or opinion, at home or abroad, to Vs or any of Vs: But on the contrare, that any act or letter, or subscription of the Counsell, carying the approbation of the declaration, & condemnation of our proceedings, *indicta causa*, is, and ought to be repute and esteemed unjust, illegall, and null, as heere before God and man Wee offer to cleare, & to verifie both the justice of our cause and carriage, & the injustice of such acts against Vs, in the face of the first generall Assembly of the Church and Parliament of the Estates, unto whom with all solemnities requisite Wee do publicly appeale. *Quinto*, We protest, that seeing our former supplications, last articles, & our last desire and petition to His Majesties Commissionar, which petitioned for the present indiction of a free general Assembly & Parliament, According to the law & custome of all nations, & of this nation in the like case, To heare the desires, ease the grievances, & settle the feares of the body of the Church and kingdome, are thus delayed, and in effect refused, To wit, *Once for all*, till his Majesties conveniency for the end contained in this Proclamation, that Wee continue by thir presents to supplicat his Majestie againe and againe, for the granting of the same: And whatsoever trouble or inconvenience fall out in this land in the meane time, for want of these ordinarie remedies, & by the practise of any of these innovations & evils, contrare to our supplications, articles, & confession, it be not imputed unto Vs, who most humbly beg these lawfull remedies, But also that it is, and shall be lawfull unto Vs, to defend and maintaine the religion, lawes and liberties of this kingdome, the Kings Authority in defence thereof, & every one of Vs one another in that cause, of maintaining the religion, and the Kings for

PROTESTATION

said Authority, according to our power, vocation and Covenant, with our best counsell, bodies, lives, meanes, and whole strength, against all persons whatsoever, & against all externall or internall invasions menaced in this Proclamation. Like as that in the great exigencie of the Church, necessitating the use of this ordinarie & lawfull remedies, for settling the commotions thereof, it is & shall be leasome unto Vs to appoint, hold and use the ordinarie meanes, our lawfull meetings & Assemblies of the Church agreeable to the Law of God, & practise of the primitive Church, the acts of the generall Assemblies, & Parliaments, and the example of our Worthie Reformers in the like case. *Sexto*, Wee protest, that our former Supplications, Complaints, Protestations, Confessions, meetings, proceedings and mutuall defences, of every one another in *this Cause*, As they are, and were in themselves most necessarie, & orderly meanes agreeable to the lawes and practise of this Church and kingdome, to bee commended as reall dueties of faithfull Christians, loyall Subjects, & sensible members of the body of the Church and kingdome, and no wise to bee stiled nor accounted great disorders, misdemanours, blind disobedience under pretext of Religion & running headlong into ruine &c. So they proceeded only from conscience of our duetie to God, our King, native country, & our posterity, and doth Tend to no other end, But to the preservation of the true reformed Religion, the confession of Faith, lawes, & liberties of this His Majesties most antient kingdome, and of his Majesties authoritie in defence thereof, & satisfaction of our humble desires, contained in our Supplications, Complaints & articles, Vnto the which wee adhere againe and againe, As wee would eschew the curse of the Almighty God, following the breach of his Covenant: And yet wee doe certainly expect according to the Kings Majestie his accustomed goodnesse, and justice, that His sacred Ma-
jestie

Iulij. 4. 1638.

iesty after a true information of the justice of our cause and carriage, Will presently indict these ordinarie remedies of a free Assembly and parliament to our just supplications, complaints, and articles, which may be expected, and useth to bee granted from so iust and gracious a King, towards most loyall and duetifull Subjects, calling for redresse of so pressing grievances, And praying heartily that his Majesty may long and prosperously reigne over Vs.

VHereupon a Noble Earle, *Iohn Earle of Castles, &c.* in name of the Noblemen, Master *Alexander Gibson* younger of *Durie*, in name of the Barrons, *James Fletcher*, Provest of *Dundie*, in name of the Borrowes, Master *Iohn Ker* Minister at *Salt-Prestoun*, in name of the Ministers, and Master *Archbald Johnston*, Reader heereof, in name of all who adheres to the Confession of Faith, & Covenant, lately renewed within this Kingdome, Tooke Instruments in the hands of three Notars present, at the said mercat crosse of *Edinburgh*, beeing invironed with great Numbers of the foresaid Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Ministers & Commons, Before many Hundred witnesses; and craved the extract thereof: And in token of their dutifull respect to his Majestie, confidence of the equitie of their cause and innocencie of their carriage, and hope of his Majesties gracious acceptance, They offred in all humilitie, with submisse reverence, a Copie thereof to the Herauld.

FINIS.